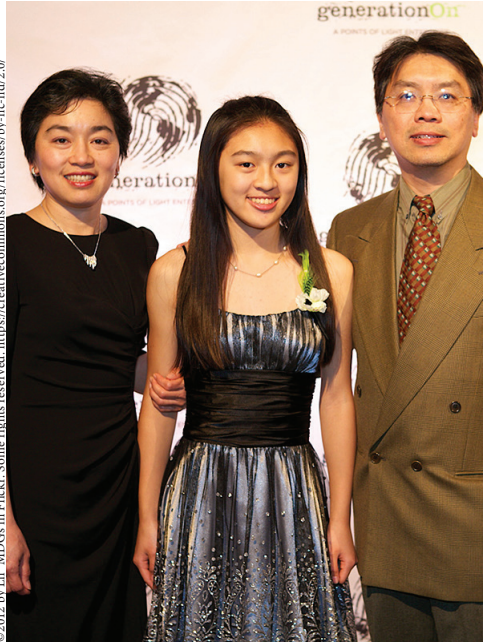


From Grease to Gold



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Cassandra Lin saw a problem. Some people who lived in her state, Rhode Island, couldn't afford to buy fuel to heat their home. To find a solution, Cassandra went to the Rhode Island Green Expo. That's where she found a way to solve two problems.

Rhode Island winters can be very cold, and not everyone can buy enough fuel to stay warm. Shelters for people

without homes also struggle to heat their buildings. Then Cassandra and her friends learned that restaurants poured used cooking oil down their sinks. This oil clogs city sewer pipes.

These two problems seemed separate until Cassandra learned that used cooking oil could be recycled and turned into a clean burning energy that can heat homes. Once they saw what could be done, Cassandra and her friends formed the T.G.I.F project. Now, T.G.I.F doesn't just mean "thank goodness it's Friday" in Rhode Island. It also means "Turn Grease into Fuel."

So far, the program has helped hundreds of people stay warm in winter. In fact, since 2009, T.G.I.F. has given 21,000 gallons of fuel to organizations and people in need in Rhode Island. The estimated cost of this fuel is \$81,000.

Where does T.G.I.F get its oil? Many restaurants in the area help by giving their used oil to the project. Restaurants can produce between 100 and 300 gallons of used oil a month, and they usually pay companies to take it away. Families and households are also encouraged to take their used oil to the town's transfer station. The oil is collected there and taken to a place that recycles it into fuel.

Although Cassandra and her friends are young heroes, she credits her brother for his help. Both have a strong interest in helping their community, and the energy to get things done. She says that families should encourage their children so every child can "be as much as they can be."



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